

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview on May 1, 2008, wherein amendments to the claims were discussed.

I. CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS

Claims 2-4 were pending in this application when last examined. Claim 2 was rejected. Claims 3 and 4 were objected.

Claim 2 is amended to remove the language "has a sodium content of 10 ppm or lower and." Support for the amendment can be found in original claim 2.

Claims 3-4 were objected to as being rejected dependent claims, but would be allowable if rewritten to independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of this case, including the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants request reexamination and reconsideration of the case, as amended. Below Applicants address the rejections levied in the Office Action, and explain why the rejections are not applicable to the pending claims as amended.

Applicants are submitting the present Amendment without prejudice to the subsequent prosecution of claims to some or all of the subject matter which might be disclaimed by virtue of this

paper (although none is believed to be), and explicitly reserve the right to pursue some or all of such subject matter, in Divisional or Continuation Applications.

This amendment must be entered and considered after final rejection, because the subject matter of the amended claims was fully considered in the current Office Action. Therefore, there is nothing that would require further consideration and/or search, and hence no ground for refusing entry to this amendment. Further, it is noted that the claims have been amended as suggested by the Office. Accordingly, if the next Office Action on the merits includes a new rejection of one or more claims, the Action must be non-final.

II. ENABLEMENT AND INDEFINITENESS REJECTIONS

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement for the claim term "has a sodium content of 10 ppm or lower" for the reasons in item 3 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the term "sodium content of 10 ppm or lower" for the reasons in item 5 on page 4 of the Action.

For the sole purpose of expediting prosecution and not to acquiesce to the rejections, Applicants have amended claim 2 to remove the term "sodium content of 10 ppm or lower". Therefore, the rejections are untenable and should be withdrawn.

III. CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 2 was objected to on the basis that the formula for the piperazine pyrophosphate compound is unclear for the reason in item 6 of the Office Action.

The present amendment overcomes this objection as the claim has been rewritten to more clearly depict the formula. Thus, the objection should be withdrawn.

IV. CLAIM OBJECTION/ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 3-4 were objected to as being rejected dependent claims, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. See items 7 and 8 on page 5 of the Office Action.

Applicants appreciate the Office's indication of allowable subject matter. Kindly note that the present amendment overcomes the remaining rejections and objections, thereby rendering the objection moot.

V. CONCLUSION

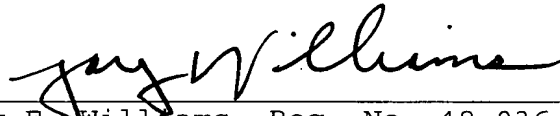
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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